GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:153
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
VISIT OF DEPUTY PM OF RUSSIA
SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of talks held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the invitation of Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Hon`ble Finance Minister, H.E. Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC), visited India from 14-16 October 2001. During his visit to India, Mr. Klebanov called on the Hon`ble President and the Hon`ble Prime Minister of India. He also met Minister of External Affairs, Raksha Mantri and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Adviser. During Mr. Klebanov`s meetings, discussions took place on Indo-Russian bilateral relations as well as on the developments in the region including Afghanistan. The meeting of the IRIGC was devoted exclusively to the review of bilateral economic and trade relations. In Mr. Klebanov`s meeting with Minister of External Affairs and Raksha Mantri, the working of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation was reviewed. Mr. Klebanov also attended a business meeting with the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

(c) During the visit, the two countries reiterated the importance they attach to their multifaceted relations. In this connection, the Russian side reaffirmed the importance of the Hon`ble Prime Minister`s visit to the Russian Federation which took place from 4-7 November 2001. There was an identity of views on developments in the region including the importance of a broad-based and representative government in post-Taliban Afghanistan. It was agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security. Cooperation to combat terrorism is becoming an imperative of contemporary international reality. The two sides also agreed that combating this menace should be on a comprehensive and long-term basis and should be directed also at those supporting, harbouring or providing safe haven to terrorism. The two Sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in countering international terrorism and other transnational organised crimes, which fuel terrorism, including drug trafficking. The two sides also considered ways and means of increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed their complete satisfaction at the vibrant development of bilateral relations between India and Russia.